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(Original Signature of Member)

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

To require Congress to budget in advance for disasters and for other purposes.

\_\_\_\_\_  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. WALKER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the  
Committee on \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**A BILL**

To require Congress to budget in advance for disasters and  
for other purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Budgeting for Disas-  
5       ters Act”.

6       **SEC. 2. TERMINATION OF EXEMPTIONS FROM THE ANNUAL**  
7       **BUDGET CAPS.**

8       Subparagraphs (D) and (F) of section 251(b)(2) of  
9       the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act

1 of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901(b)(2)) shall not apply with respect  
2 to fiscal year 2020, or any fiscal year thereafter.

3 **SEC. 3. EMERGENCY SPENDING POINT OF ORDER.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 314(e)(2) of the Congres-  
5 sional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 645(e)(2)) is amend-  
6 ed by striking “three-fifths” each place it appears and in-  
7 serting “two-thirds”.

8 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by  
9 subsection (a) shall—

10 (1) take effect on the date of enactment of this  
11 Act; and

12 (2) apply with respect to fiscal year 2020, and  
13 each fiscal year thereafter.

14 **SEC. 4. GAO REVIEW OF EMERGENCY SPENDING.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the  
16 date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General  
17 of the United States shall submit to Congress a report  
18 that—

19 (1) reviews amounts appropriated for each of  
20 fiscal years 2009 through 2018 that were—

21 (A) designated as being for an emergency  
22 requirement;

23 (B) designated as being for disaster relief;  
24 or

1 (C) made available to provide assistance  
2 under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief  
3 and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121  
4 et seq.);

5 (2) identifies and reviews amounts appropriated  
6 for any of fiscal years 2009 through 2018 that were  
7 designated as being for an emergency requirement  
8 and designated as being for disaster relief; and

9 (3) provide recommendations to—

10 (A) clarify the definition of emergency re-  
11 quirements for purposes of appropriated  
12 amounts being designated as being for an emer-  
13 gency requirement;

14 (B) implement an appropriate time limit  
15 for recipients to spend appropriated amounts  
16 that are designated as being for an emergency  
17 requirement;

18 (C) improve cost-sharing relating to major  
19 disasters and emergencies among Federal,  
20 State, and local governments; and

21 (D) improve forecasting and budgeting for  
22 appropriations for emergency requirements and  
23 disaster relief.

24 (b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

1           (1) the term “emergency” means an emergency  
2       declared by the President under section 501 of the  
3       Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency  
4       Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5191);

5           (2) the term “designated as being for an emer-  
6       gency requirement”, with respect to amounts appro-  
7       priated, means that the amounts are designated as  
8       an emergency requirement pursuant to—

9           (A) section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Bal-  
10       anced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control  
11       Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901(b)(2)(A)(i)); or

12          (B) a provision of a concurrent resolution  
13       on the budget;

14          (3) the term “designated as being for disaster  
15       relief”, with respect to amounts appropriated, means  
16       that the amounts are designated as being for dis-  
17       aster relief pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(D) of the  
18       Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control  
19       Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901(b)(2)(D)); and

20          (4) the term “major disaster” means a major  
21       disaster declared by the President under section 401  
22       of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emer-  
23       gency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170).